

Th: is the dyalogus or cōmunynge betwixt
the wyse king Salomon and Marcolphus.





¶ Here begynneth the dyalogus or comynicaci
on betwixt Salomon the king of iherusalē and
Marcolphus that right rude and great of body
was bnt right subtyll & wyse of wyt/ and full
of vndrestādyng. as thereafter folowynge men
shall here.

MDon a season hertofore as king sa
lomō full of wisdom and riches:
sate vpon the kinges sete or stole that
was his fadres davyd: sawe co
mynge a mā out of theste that was
named marcolphus. of vy sage greatly myshap
pen and fowle/ neyther thelesse he was right tal
katyfelloquend & wyse. His wif had he wyth
hym whiche was more ferefull and rude to be
holde And as they were bothe comen before king
Salomō/ he behelde thayn well This marcolf
wa. of short stature and thykke. He had
he great: a brode for hede rede and full of wrin
kelys or frouncys: his erys hery ad to the myd
dys of chekys hangyng. great yes and renyng.
his nether lyppe hāgyng lyke an horse. A berde
harde and fowle lyke vnto a goet. The handes
short ad blockyssh His fyngres great and thyc
ke Rownde feet. & the nose thyc ke and croked. a
face lyke an asse: ad the here of hys heed lyke the
heer of a goet: his shoes on his fete: were ovyr
moche chorlysh and rude: and his clothys fowle
and dyrtty. a shorthe kote to the buttockys his ha

syn hyng. full of wrynkelys and alle his clothes
were of the moost fowle coloure. his wyf was
of short stature and she was out of mesure thye
ke wyth great brestys: and the here of hyr hede
clustred lyke thystels. She had longe wynde
browes lyke brostels of a swyne. Longe erys
lyke an asse. Kening yen: berdyd lyke a goet hyr
vysage and skyn blacke and full of wrynkelys /
and vpon hyr great brestys she had of span bro
de: a broche of leed: She had short fynghes. full
of yreuryngys. Se had right great nosethrylles
Hyr leggyes short. and hery lyke a bere / hyr clo
thes were rough and broken / of suche a woman
oz of an othre lyke vnto hyr: a yongeman hath
made thies verses folowyn

*Femina deformis tenebrarū subdita formis
Cum turpi facie transit absqz die.*

*Est mala res multum turpi concedere cultum
Sed turpis nimirum turpe ferat viciū*

That is to saye an evyll favouryd and a fowle
blacke wyf behovyth to shewe the dayes lyght.
It is to oure yes medycyne to se that fayre is ād
fyne

As kyng salomō thies two persones thus had
seen / & beholdē: he demaūded of thaym of whēs
they weryn & of what lynage they were comyn
Marcolph⁹ thereo āsweryd. Saye furste to vs
poure kynrede & genleagie. & of poure fadres. &
than shall I shewe & declare yon of oures / Salo

mon. I am of the vij. kyndredes of patryarkes.
that is to wete. that iudas gate phares. phares
gate esron/ Esron gat aron/ Aron genderyd/ ami-
nadab Aminadab gat naazon/ Naazon gat sal-
mō Salmo gat boos/ Boos gat obeth/ Obeth gat
ysay. ysay gat davyd king/ David gat salomō the
king & that am I. Marcolf⁹ answeryd/ I am of
the vij. kindred/ of Chorlys. Rustic⁹ gat rustam
Rusta gat rustum/ Rustus gat rusticellū/ Rusti-
cell⁹ gat tarcum/ Tarc⁹ gat tarcol/ Tarcol gat
pharsi/ Parsi gat marcuel/ Marcuel gat mar-
quat/ Marquat gat marcolphū & that is I. And
my wyf is comen of the blood and .vij. kyndre-
des of vntydy wyues. That is to knowe/ of lu-
pica tha gat lupicana. Lupicana gat ludibzac Lu-
dibzac gat bonestrūg/ Bonestrung gat boledrut
Boledrut gat paldrut. Paldrut gat lordan/ Lor-
dan gat curta/ Curta gat Curtula. Curtula gat
Curtella. Curtella gat polica Polica gat polycana.
& thys is my wyf Polycana. Salomon say-
de I haue herd of the that thou kanst right we-
le clatre and speke/ and that thou art subtyl of
wyf/ although that thou be mysshapyn ād chor-
lyssh: Iete vs haue betwene/ vs altercacon. I
shal make questyons to the/ and thou shalt ther-
to answer. Marcolphus answeryd/ he that sin-
gyth worste begynne furste. Salo. If thou kãst
unswere to alle my questyons I shall make the
ryche/ and be named/ above alle othre withyn

my reame Marcol. The phisician promysyth
the seeke folke helthe whan he hath no power
Salo. I haue iuged betwixt two light women
whiche dwellyd in oon house and forlaye a chyl
de. Mar. Were crys are there are causes. where
women be there are wordys Salo. God ya
we wysdam in my mouth. for me lyke is none
in alle partyes of the worlde Marcolf. Be
that hath evyll neighborys prayyth hym self
Sal. The wykkydman fleyth. nomā folwyng
Marcol. Whan the kydde rennyth: men may se
his ars Salomō A good wyf and a fayre. is
to hir husbonde a pleasure Mar. A pot full of
mylke muste be kept wele from the katte Sal.
A wyse woman byldeth an house: and she that
vnwyse and a fool is: distroyeth with hir han
des that she fyndeth made Marc. A pot that
is wele baken may best endure/ and that clene
is browyn that may they fayre drynken Salo
mon A ferdefull woman shabbe praysed. Mar
colfus A Latte that hath a good skyn shalbe
flayne Salomō A shamefast wyf and a fayre
is mekyl to be belovyd Marcol. To pore men
whyte mete are to be kept Salo. A woman
stronge in doyng good who shall fynde. Mar.
Who shal fynde a catte trewe in keepyng mylke
Salo. Noon Mar. And a woman seldom/ Sa
lo. A fayre womā and an honest: is to be pray
sed above alle rycheffe that a man fynde may

Marcol. A fat woman and a great is larger in
yeryng than othre. Salo. A whyt kerchyf be-
comth wele a womā's hede. Mar. It standyth
wryten: that the furre is not all lyke the sievys.
and vndre a whyte cloth often are hyrd mothy's
Sal. He that sowyth wyckydnesse. shal reape
evyll. Mar. He that sowyth chaf shal pozely
mowe. Salo. Out of the mouth of a holy man
shal come good lernyng & wysedom. Mar. The
asse behovyth to be allweye where he fedyth.
for ther it growyth: where he etyth oon gres:
there growe pl. ayen/ where he dungyth: there
it fattyth: where he pyssyth there makyth he
wete/ and where he wallowyth there brekyth
he the strawe. Sal. Ete an othre preyse the
Mar. yf I shulde my self dyspreyse/ nomā shal
I please. Sal. Thou shalt ete moche ony. Mar.
That beys dryve lykke faste theyre fyngres
Sal. In an evyll wylled herte the spryrt of wy-
sedome shal not entre. Mar. As ye smyte wyth
an aye in an hard tre/ beware that the chippes
falle not in youre ye. Sal. It is hard to spurne
ayenst the sharpp rykyl. Mar. The oy that dra-
wyth backward shalbe twyse pricked. Sal. Fe-
de vp youre children & from thar ye routh le-
ne thar in to do well. Mar. He that fedyth well
is cove etyth often of the mylke. Salo. All ma-
ner kyndes turne ayen to theyre furste nature:
Mar. A worne tabyll cloth turnyth ayē to his

furst kynde Sal What the iuge knowyth of
right & trouthe that spekyth he out. Mar. A bis
shop that spekyth not is made a porter of a pate
Salo. Honoure is to be yeuē to the maistre and
the rodde to be feryd Mar. He that is wonte to
anoite the iuges hādes of tyn tymes he makyth
his asselene Sal. A yent a strōg & myghty mā
thau shalt not fyghte ne stryve ayēst the strene

Marc/ The vultier takyth the skyn of stronge
fowles & makyth thayn naked of theyr fethers

/ Salo Tete vs amēde vs in good that vnwy
thyngly we have mys done/ Mar. As a mā wy
pyth his ars he doth nothing ellys/ Sal Wyl
thou n ot disceyue any man wyth fayre wordz.

Marc/ By wyt he etyth that gretyth the ether:

Salo/ wyth brawlyng people holde no cōpanye

Marc/ It is reson that he of the swyne ete that
medlyth amonge te bren/ Sal There be many

that kan have no shame / Mar/ They lyve vnder

the mē that are lyke to howndes/ Sal There

are many that to theyr good doers do evyl for

good Marcolphus He that yeryth bred to

an othre manys hownde shall have no thanke

Salomon It is no frende that dureyth not in

frendeshyp Mar The dung of a calf stynkyth

not longe/ Sal He seketh many occasiōs that

wolk departe from his maist/ Mar/ A woman

that wolk not cōsente. seyth thath she hat a skab

byd arse Salomon A kynges worde shul

de be vnschaungeable or stedfaste/ Marcolphus

he is sone wery that plowyth wyth a wolf. Sa
lomō The radiffh rotys are good mete but they
stynke in the Connsell. Mar. He that etyth Ra
dyssh rotys coughyth above and vndyr. Sal. It
is lost that is spokyn a fore people that vndresta
de not what they here. Mr. He lesyth his shafte
that shetyth in the sande. Sal. He that stoppyth
his erys from the cying of the pore people.oure
lord god shall not here hym. Mar. He that we
pyth afore a iugc lesyth his terys. Sal. Ryse vp
thou northren wynde and come forth thou sou
thzen wynde and blowe throughe my gardeyne
and the wele smellyng herbys shall growe and
multiplie. Marc. Whan the northzen wyndes
blowe than ben the high howses in great trou
ble and daunger. Salo. The deth nor povertye
wyl not be hyd. Mar. A man that is brostyn
and hyde. it they growe the moee. Sal. As thou
syttyst at a Richemans table beholde diligently
what comyth afore the. Mar. Alle metys that
is ordeyned for the body. muste throughe the bes
ly. and it goth in the stomak. Salo. Whan thou
syttyst at the tabyll beware that thou taste not
furst. Mar. He that syttyth in the hyghest sete /
he holdyth the vppermost place. Sal. As the
stronge the weyke wynneth / he takyth all that
he hath. Mar. The catte seeth wele whoos bers
de she lycke shall. Salo. That he wycked feryth
that fallyth hym ofte. Mar. He that doth evyll

and hoppyth good/ is disceyvyd in thayn bothe
Sal. For the colde the slouthfull wolde not go to
plough/ be heggyd his brede: and no man wolde
hym yeve Mar. A nakyd ars no man kan rob/
be or dispoyle Salo. Studie makyth a maystre
wclewylled Mar. Thandys that are vsyd in
the fyre/ fere not the ketyll/ Sal. Brawlers and
janglers are to be kaste out of alle good cōpanye
Mar. An angry howse wyf/ the smoke/ the ratte
and a broken plater/ are often tymes vnprofy-
table in an howse Sal. For goddys love men
are bownden to love othre/ Marc/ If thou love
hym that lovyth not the thou lesyth thy n loue
Salo. Saye not to thy frende come to morowe
I shal yeve the/ that thou maiste forthwyth yeve
hym Mar. He sayth an othre tyme he shall
doo it/ that hath noth wherwyth redy for to do
it with alle Sal. He that is wyne dzonkē: hol-
dyth nothing that he sayth Marcolph⁹ An
opyn arse hath no lord Salo/ Many coveyte to
have rychesse that with povertye are holdē vn-
dre/ Marcol. Ete that ye have/ and se what shall
remaigne Salomō There are many that sus-
terne hungry: and yet fede they theyre wyves
Mar. The pore hady ne breedy ād yet he bought
an hownde/ Sal. The fole answeryth afyr hys
folissnes/ for that he shulde not be knowyn wy-
se/ Mar/ what the stone heryth/ that shall te oke
answere Sal. wrathe hath no mercy / & trefore

he that angzely spekyth/ beyth evyle or shrewd-
ly/ Mar/ Saye not in thyn angze to thy frende
no evyl/ lest thou forthynke it a streward? Sal.
The mouth of an ennemye kan saye no good.
ne hys lypys shall sownde no trouthe: Mar. he
that loryth me not/ doth not diffame me/ Salo.
Slepe as ye have nede/ Ma/ He that leyth hym
downe to slepe & kan not/ is not at his hertys ea-
se/ Sal We have well fyllyd oure bellys lete vs
thanke god/ Mar/ As the owsell whystelyth so
answeryth the thrush the hungry and the julle
syngge not oon songe/ Sal. Lete vs ete and drinke
we shall alle deye Mar. The hungry dyeth
aswele as the full fedd: As a man playeth vpo
an harpe he kan not wele idicte Mar. So whā
the hownde shytyth he berkyth noth/ Sal: The
wretchyd wombe is full go we now to bedde.
Marcol. He turnyth and walowyth & slepyth
evyl that hath not for to ete. Salo. Dyspyse thou
not a lytyll yifte that is geven the of a trewe frē
de Mar. That a Geldyde man hath that yevyth
he to his neighborwes/ Salo/ Go thou not wyth
the evyll man or the brawelyng: lest thou suffre
evyll for hym or peryle Marcolph? A dede bee
makyth no hony/ Salo. If thou make frēdeship
with a false and evylwylled man. it shal hyndre
the more than proffyte: Marcolphus:
What the wolf doth/ that pleasyth the wollesse
Salomon: He that answeryth afore

he is demaundyd she wyth hym self a fole: Mar
Whan a man tredyth drawel to you poure fete
Sal' Evry. thing chesyth his lyke: Mar/ Where
a skabbyd horse is/ he seketh his lyke and eyther
of thaym gnappyth othre Salo. A mercyfull
ma doth wele to his sowle/ Mar: He dyspyseth
a great yfte that knowyth not hym self/ Sal'
He that skapyth te wolf/ metyth the lyon/ Mar
colfus ffrom evyll into worse/ as the Looke to
a bakere: Sal' Ware that no man do the non
evyll/ if he do/ do it not ayen Mar/ The styll sta-
dyng watyr/ & the man that spekyth but lytyll/
beleve thaym not Salo. We may not alle be ly-
ke Mar/ It standeth wrpten in a boke/ he that
hath no horse muste go on fote. Salo. A Chylde
of an hundred yere is cursyd Mar. It is to late
an olde hounde in a bande to lede. Sal. He that
hath shalbe yeven/ & shall flowe. Mar. Woo to
that man that hath frendes & no breed/ Saloñ/
whoo to that man that hath a dowble herte/ ad
inbothe weyes wyll wādre. Mar He that woll
two weyes go muste eythre his ars or his bre-
che teze/ Saloñ/ Of habundaunce of therte the
mouth spekyth/ Mar. Out of a full wōbe thars
trompyth/ Salo/ Two opē in one pocke drawē
lyke: Mar. Two veynes go lyke to oon ars.
Sal. A fayre woman is to beloved of hire hus-
bande/ Mar/ In the necke is she whyte as a do-
ve. and in the ars blacke and derke lyke a molle.

Salo: Out of the generaciō of inda is my moost
kyndrede/ñ the lord of my fadze hath made go-
uernoure ovvz his people: **M**ar. I knowe wele
a tabylcloth: and of what werke it is made. **S**a-
lomō Rede makyth a right wyse mā to do evyll
Mar. Therwolf that is takyn ād set fast/eythze
he byteth or shytyth/ **S**al. Were it so that god al-
le the world vndre my power had set/ it shulde
suffyse me/ **M**arc. Men kan not yeve the katte
somoche/ but that she woll hyz tayle wagge.
Sal. He that late comyth to dyner/ his parte is
leest in the mete **M**ar. The glouton kan not se
or renne alaboutc/ **S**alo. Though it be so that
thy wif be sowze fere hir not/ **M**ar. The shephde
that wakyth well: ther shall the wolf no wolle
shyte: **S**al. It becōth no foles to speke or to bryn-
ge forth any wyse reason. **M**ar. It becomyth
not a dogge to bere a sadyll/ **S**alo. whyles the
chil dren are lytyll: reichte theyze lymmes: & ma-
ners/ **M**arc. He that kyssyth the lambe/ loryth
the shepe: **S**alo. Alle reyght pathys goō to war-
des oon weye: **M**arc. So done alle the veynes
renne to wardes the ars: **S**alo. Of a good man
comth a good wyf: **M**arc. Of a good mele co-
myth a great torde that men wyth theyze fete
trede So muste mē also/ alle the bestyall wyne
trede vndre fote/ **S**alo. A fayre wyf becomyth
well by hir husbād/ **M**arc. A pot full wyth wy-
ne becomth well by the thrusty/ **S**alo. wel beco

myth a fap2c sworde by my syde. Mar/ Wel be-
comth my hegge a great hepe of stonyes Sal.
The gretter that ye be the more meke shulde ye
be in alle thyngys/ Mar/ he rydyth well that ri-
dyth wyth his felawes/ Sal The wyse chylde
gladyth the fady2: & the folyssh childe is a so2we
to the mody2/ Mar. They syng not al oon so2ge
the glad: & the so2y: Sal. he that so wyth wyth
skaerstye/ repyth skaersly: Mar. The more it fry-
seth the more it byndeth: Sal. do alle thynges by
couñsell & thou shalt not astre forthinke it/ Mar/
he is seke y nough that the sekenesse drawyth oz
folowyth: Sal. Alle thinges have theyre seasōs
& tyme: Mar. Now dave to mor we dave. sayde
the oye: that the hare chacyd. Sa. I am wery of
spekyng: lete vs therefore reste Mar. Therefore
shall not y leue my clapping: Sa: j may no more
Mar/ yf ye maye no more yelde youre self ovyr
comē: & yeue me that ye have promysed Wyth
that spake to marcolf Hanany as the sone of jo-
iade: and zabus the kinges frende: and adonias
the sone of abde whiche hadden the charge and
gouernañee ovyr the kyges tribute/ and sayde:
Thou shalt not herefore be the thy2dde in the ki-
gedome of oure soueraigne lord Mē shall rather
put bothe thyn worst yen out of thy moost vyle
hede: for it becomyth the betty2 to lye amonge
berys: than to be exal ted to any dignyte oz ho-
nour/ Than marcolphus sayde wherfor hath

the king than pmyſed. Than ſayde the kinges
vij. prouoſtes/ that is to wyte Reuthur Bena-
dachar Benefſya Bena Benanides Banthabar
Athurady Bomunia Joſephus Semes ad Sa-
mer/ Wherto comth this ſole oure ſoveraign loz
de althys to trouble and mocke Why dryue ye
hym not out wyth ſtavyſ of his fyghte Tho ſay
de ſalomon/ not ſo but yeue hym wele to ete and
drinke/ and lete hym than goo in peaſe To ſpak
marcolphus goyng his weye to the king/ I ſuf-
fre y nough what that ye haue ſayde I ſhall al-
weyes ſaye There is no kypg were no lawe is

Onys vpon a tyme the king rode an huntynge
wyth his hunterys and howndes/ and fortun-
d hym to come by the houſe of marcolf: And
turnyd hym ſelf thidre wardes wyth his horſe
and demaunded wyth his hede inclyned vndre
the dorre bowe. who was wythin. Marcolf aſ-
werpd to the king: wythin is an hool man & an
half. & an horſe hede/ & the more that they aſcen-
de the more they downe falle To that ſpak ſalo-
mō what menyſt thou therewithall/ Tho aſwe-
ryd marcolphus The hool man is my ſelf ſyt-
tyng wythin/ ye are the half man ſyttynge wy-
thoute vpon youre horſe lokyng in wyth you-
re hede declyned. And the horſe hede is the
hede of youre horſe that ye ſytte on: Than Salo-
mon demaunded of Marcolphus what they

were that clymē vp and fallyn downe. Mar
col: Answerd & sayde: they are the benys boyls
lyng in the pott Salom/ where is thy fadyr: thy
modyr/ thy Sustyr/ and thy brothyr/ Mar/ My
fadyr is in the felde and makyth of oon harme
two My modyr is goon and dooth to hir neigh-
bor we that she nevyr more shall do/ my brothyr
sytting wythoute the house slepyth alle that he
fyndeth My sustyr syttyth in hire Chambr &
bewepyth that a fore tyme she laughyd. Salom
What betokeneth they Mar: My fadyr is i the
felde and puttyth oz settyth thornys in a foot
path/ & comyng men they make an othre path
therby/ & so he makyth of oon harme two My
modyr is goon and closyth the yes of hir neygh-
bor we deying/ the whiche she shall nevyr more
do My brothyr sytting withoute the house i the
sonne & lowpyth & alle that he fyndeth he slepyth
My sustyr/ the laste yere lovyd a yonge man ad
wyth kyssyng/ laughig/ tastyng: japyng & play
ing: she was getyn wyth chylde: whereof she
now travayllyth/ and that now she bewepyth
fore: Salomon How comyth to the alle this
wysdome & subtyltye/ Marcolfus In the tyme
of king dauid youre fadyr there was a yongema
his phisicia. & as he onys had takyn a vulture
for to occupye in his medycins/ and had takyn
therof that was to hym expedyet So toke your
remodyr Barsebea the herte & leyde it vpon a

cruste of breed; and rosted; it vpon the fayze/ and
gave you the herte to ete/ and I thāne beyng in
the kech; she kast at my hede the cruste through
moysted wyth therte of the vulture: & that ete i
and therof I suppose is comē to me my subtiltie
lyke as to you is comen by etyng of therte wyse
dom. Salomō As verely god helpe the. in gabaā
god appieryd; to me & fulfyllē; me wyth sapiē
ce: Marcolph⁹ He is holdyn wyse that reputyth
hym self a fole: Sa. Haste thou not herde what
rycheste god hath yevyn me aboven that wyse
domē **M**ar. I have herde it And i knowe well
that where god woll/ there reynyth it. To that
sayd salomō all laughyngly/ my folkys wayte v
pon me withoute i may no leugyr wyth the tal
ke/ but saye to thy modyr that she sende me of hir
beste cowe a pot full of mylke/ and that the pot
of the same cowe be coveryd; & bringe thou it to
me: Marcolph⁹ It shalbe done: King salomon
wyth his companye rydyng to wardys ierusalē
was honourably receyvyd/ as a riche and moost
puyssāt king. And whan floscemya marcolph⁹
modyr was comyn home to hir house/ he dede
to hir the kīges message **T**hā she takig a pot full
wyth mylke of hir cowe/ and coveryd; it wyth
a flawne of the same mylke made. and sent it so
forth to the king by hir sone/ as marcolph⁹ went
ovyr the felde the wethir was warne of the sō
ne sawe lping there a dreye bakyn cowe torde: &

for haste he vnnethe cowde set downe the pot
to the erthe but that he had etyn the flawne/ and
toke vp the cowe torde. and ther wyth coveyrd
the pot: And so coveyrd presentyd it before the
king. and he askyd why is the pot thus coveyrd.
Marcolf My lord have not ye comaunded that
the milke shulde be coveyrd of the same cowe/ Sa
lo. I comaunded not so to be done: Mar. Thus
I vnderstode/ Sal. It had ben bettyr coveyrd
wyth a flawne made wyth the mylke of the sa
me Cowe. Mar. So was it furste done/ but hū
gyr chamigyd wyt/ Sal. How: Marc. I wyste
wele that ye had no nede of mete/ and I havynge
great hūgyr ete the flawne wyth mylke anyon
ted/ and for that wyth wyt chunghyd/ the pot I
have thus coveyrd wyth a cowe torde. Sal. now
leve we all this. and yf that thou thys nyght wa
ke not aswele as I: thou mayste have no truste
to morne of thy hede. Salomō & marcolph con
sentyd bothe. & wythin a lytyll whyle aftyr mar
colph began to rowte/ Salo. sayde/ marcolf thou
slepyst: Marcolph answeryd. Lord I do not I
thinke/ Salomon/ what thinkyst thou/ Marcolf
I thinke that there are as many joyntys in the
tayle of an hare/ as i hire chyne: Salomō if thou
pve not that to morne thou arte worthy to deye
Salomon beyng styll/ began marcolph to slepe:
ayen and sayde to hym/ thou slepyst And he ans
weryd/ I do not/ for I thynke/ Salomon what

thynkest thou/ Marcolphus/ I thynke that the
pye hath as many whyte fethrys as blacke. Sa
lomo But thou also prove that trewe thou shalt
lese thyn hede/ As salomon aye began to be styl
le Marcolph began aye te rowte and to blowe
And Salomo sayd to hym thou sieppst/ Marcol
phus Nay I thinke/ Salomon/ What thinkest
thou/ Marcolph I thinke that vndre therhe
is no clerer thing than the daye Salom Is the
daye clerer than nyght/ Marcolph Je/ Salomo
That muste thou prove. Anone herupon began
marcolphus to slepe. Salo. Thou sieppst/ Mar/
I slepe not but I muse/ Salomon What musyst
thou. Marcolph I muse how that men may not
surely truste the women. Salomon/ And that
of the shalwe provyd/ Anon afty2 as Salomon
was styll began marcolf aye to blowe and to
slepe. Salomo Thou sieppst/ Marcolph I do not
but I thinke/ Salomo What thinkest thou. Mar
coph I thinke how that nature goth afore ler
nyng: Salomon: If thou prove not that trewe
thou shalt lese thyn hede/ Afty2 that the nyght
was ovyr passyd. and salomon mery of waking
put hym self to reeste Than marcolf lefte the king
and ran hastely to hys sustyr Judasa: and sayd
ned hym self sozwefull. and hevyr. and sayde to
hyre: The king Salomon is ayenst me. and
I may not bere hys threptyes and iniuries: and

but I shall take this knyfe / & hyde it secretly vnder
my clothes / and there wyth this daye all pry
uely he not knowyng I shall synyte hym to ther
te and sle hym: now good dere sustyr I praye
the accuse me not but in any wyse kepe it secrete
ne shewe it not to myn owne brothyr Busfrydo /
Judasa answeryd my dere and levest brothyr
Marcolf put no doubtis therin I had levyd dye
and be bzent at a stake rather / than I shulde disco
vre it or accuse the / Aftyr that retornyd mar
colf all pryvely to wardys the kynges Courte
The sone rysyng & spredyng hyr beamys ovyr
therthe illumined & fulfyllyd the kynges palay
ce: and salamon rysyng from his bed / wente and
sat in the trone or sete of his palayce Than com
maunded he to bringe a fore hym an hare. and
as many joyntes in his tayle as in hys chyne we
re fownden by marcolph and nombredys ¶
Thanne was there a pye brought before the
king / and as many whyte fethrys as black we
re fownden by marcolph And thane toke mar
colph a great panne wyth mylke and set it in the
kynges bed chambze all pryvely. and closyd to
alle the wyndowes that no lyght myght in co
me Thanne kallyd he the king into the chābre /
And as he come in he stumblyd at the panne &
was nygh fallyn therin Tho was the king an
gry and displeasyd / & sayd thou fowle evyl bo
dy / what is it that thou doost Marcolph answered

ryd; ye ought not herefore to be angry. For ha-
ue ye not sayd/ that milke is clerer than the daye
How is it that ye se not aswele by the clerenesse
of the mylke as ye do bi the clerenesse of the daye
Iuge egaly and ye shall fynde that I haue no-
thyng mysdone vnto you. Salomon/ God forre-
ue the. my clothys be all wyth mylke sprongyn
And nygh I had my necke brokyn/ and yet thou
haste me nothing trespassyd. Marcolphus aswe-
ryd; a othre tyme se bettyr to fore youlnevyrhte-
lesse sytte downe/ and do me iustyce vpon a ma-
ter that I shall shewe afore you: Whan he was
set Marcolph; complayned; and shewyd; Lord I
have a sustyr that hath to name Fudasa and she
hath geuen hyrself to hozedam and is wyth chil-
de wherwyth she shamyth and dishonestyd alle
oure bloode and lynage: and yet wolde she par-
te wyth me in my fathres good and herytage
Thanne sayde Salomon/ Lete hyr come afore
vs: And we shall here hyr what she woll saye
herto. As Salomon sawe hyr come from ferre
sayde all laughyngly/ Thys may wele be Mar-
colphus sustyr This fudasa was short and thyc-
ke/ and therto was she great wyth chylde/ and
thus was she thicker than she was of lenththe
She had thicke leggs and short. and went on
bote lame/ wyth dysage/ yen and stature lycke
to Marcolph. Salomon sayde to Marcolph;

What complaynest or askyst thou of thy sustyr.
Marcolph answeryd. My lord I complayne ad
shewe opynly afore you of my sustyr/ that she is
a stronge harlot and a strumpet/ ad is wyth chyl
de. as ye may se. and alle oure blood and kynrede
by hyr is shamyd. that wythstandyng she wol
de dele and parte wyth me in my fathres good
and herytage Wherefore I requyre you of iustye
ce. and that ye commaunde hire that she take no
parte ne make no clayme therto. This heyrng
Judasa replete wyth angre and woednesse cry
ed on hygh and sayde: Thou fowle mysshapyn
harlot/ wherefore shulde not I have my parte in
oure fadres good and herytage. and is not I los
cemya moder to vs bote. Marcolph Thou shalt
not have any dele or parte therin For thin offese
iugeth the clerely therfro/ Judasa Therfore I
may not lese myn herytage. For have I mysdone
I shall amende it/ but oon thyng I promyse the/
and swere by god/ and all hys myght. yf thou
wylt not lete me be inpease: and suffre me to ha
ue my parthe in the land. I shall shewe suche a
thyng of the. that the king or it be nyght shall
do the to behangyd. Marcolphus/ Thou fowle
stynkyng hore. what kanst thou saye of me I ha
ue no man mysdone/ saye thy worste I dytfe
the/ thou haste moche mysdone thou fowle facy
d/ knave and rybaulde that thou art. For thou
gladly woldyst sle the king/ and yf ye beleve not

me seke vnder his cote & ye shall fynde the knyf
Tho was the knyf sought by the kinges seruau
tyes and it was not founde. Sayde marcolph to
the king and to the aboutestanders. And have I
not sayde trouthe: that men shulde not put ovyr
moche truste or cōfidence in the womē. wyth that
they alle begā to laughē Tho sayd salomō. Mar
colph Thou doost alle thy thynges by craste and
subtyltye. Marcolph answered. Lord it is no sub
tyltye. but that my sustyr had promysed me to
have kept it secreete. & she hath falsely discoverd
it as though it had ben of a trouthe. Salomon
wherefore haste thou sayd that arte or nature.
goth before lernyng. Marcolph Take pacience
a lytyll. and afore or ye go to bedde I shal shewe
you The daye passyd ovyr and the tyme of sou
per cam on. The king sat to sowper and othre.
Wyth whom sat marcolph. and had alle pryves
ly put into hys sleve thre quyk myse There was
noysshyd in the kinges house a Catte that eve
ry nyght as the king sat at sowper: was wont
to holde betwixt hyre fore feet a brennyng kā
dell vpon the tabyll. Thanne lete marcolph oon
of the myse go out of his sleve. As the catte that
saugh she wolde have lept afty: but the king pa
uc hyr a wynke or countenaunce. that she bode
style syttyng and removynd not. and in lyke wy
se dede she of the secunde mowse. Thanne lete
marcolph the thrydde mowse go: and as the kat

te sawe he cowde no lenger abyde. but kaste the
kādell awaye and leyt aftry the mowse and to
ke it/ And as marcolph that sawe: sayde to the
king/ Here I have now prouyd before you that
nature goth afore lernyng: Tho commaunded
Salomon his seruantes. have thys man out of
my syghte: and if he come hythre any moze / set
my howndes vpon hym. Marcolph⁹: now for
certayne I knowe and may saye that where as
the hede is seke and evyll at ease / there is no lawe
As marcolph was thys out dzyven: he seyde to
hym self / neythre so nor so shall the wyse Salo
mon of marcolf be quyte. on the next moornyng
folowynge as he was out of his couche or kenel
rysen / he bethoughte hym in his mynde how he
myght beste gete hym ayen into the kinges cour
te wythout hurte or devouryng of the howndes
he wēt & bought a quyk hare / & put it vndre his
clothys & yede ayen to the courte And whan the
kinges seruantes had syghte of hym / they set v
pon hym alle the howndes & forthwyth he caste
the hare from hym: and the howndes afre. & lef
te marcolph. and thus came he ayen be the king
And as he sawe hym he askyd / who had letyn
hym in / Marcolph āsweryd wyth great sutylytie
am j in comē. Sal Be ware that thys daye thou
spytte not but vpon the bare grownde / The pa
layce was all coveryd wyth tapettys. & the wal
les hāgyd wyth riche clothys. Marcof wythin

short space after / wyth his talkyng & clateryng
wyth othre his mouth was full of spytill began
to cough and reche vp / beholdyng alaboute hym
where he myght best spytte & cowd fynde no ba-
re erthe: sawe a ballyd man stondyng by the kīg
barehedyd / and spatyd / evyn vpon his forehe-
de. The ballyd man was ther wyth / ashamyd
made cleue his forehede: and fyll on knyves befo-
re the kingys fete / and made a complaynt vpon
marcolph. Salomō Wherefore haste thou ma-
de fowle the forehede of this man. Mar. I have
not made it fowle but i have dungyd it / or made
it fat. for on a bareyne grownde. it behovyth di-
ge to be layde. that the corne that is therō sowyn
may the bettyr growe and multiplie. Saolmon
What is that to this man. Mar. My lord have
ye not forbedyn me / that this daye I shulde not
spytte but vpon the bare erthe / & I sawe his fo-
rehede all bare of herys: and thynkyng it be ba-
re erthe. and therefore I spyttyd vpon it / The
king shall not be angry for this thing for i have
done it for the manys proffyte / for and if his fo-
rehede were thus vsyd to be made fat the herys
shulde aye encrease & multiplie. Salo. God ye-
ue the shame / for the ballyd men aught to be abo-
ue othre men in honure. for balydnesse is no sha-
me but a begynnynge of worsship. Marcolphus /
Balydnesse is a flies nest Beholde i not syze how
the flies folowe more his forehede / thā alle the

o: hze that ben wythin thys house. for why they
trowē that it be a vessell turnyng full wyth som
good drinke or ellys to be a stone anoynted wyth
any swete thyng. and therfore they haste thaim
to his bare soreshede To this sayd the bailyd mā
afore the kīg: Wherto is this moost vyle rybaul
de sufferyd in the kīnges p̄sence vs to rebuke
and shame. lete hym be kast out. Marcolph/ and
be it please in thy verth/ and i shalbe styll. here
wythall come yn two women bryngyng wyth
thaim a lyving chylde/ for the wyche they afore
the kīg began to stryve: For the oon sayde it be
lōgyd to hyre / but the oō of thaim had forlayne
hyre chylde slepyng So that they were in stryve
for the levyng chylde/ Salomō sayd to oon of his
servauntis: take a sworde & departe thys chylde
in two pecys: and yeve eyther of thaim the oon
half/ That heryng the naturall bodyr of the ly
vyng chylde: sayde to the kīg Lord i beseeche you
jeve it to that woman all hool lvyng/ for she his
the verraye modyr therof. Than sayde Salomō
that she was the modyr of the chylde and yave
it to hire/ Marcolph demaūded of the kīg how
he the modyr knewe. Salomon By chaungyng
of hir colure and affection/ and by effusyō of te
rys/ Marcolphus ye myghte so be disceyved/
for beleue ye the wepyng of the womē/ and are
so wyse and knowe the crafte of thaim no bet
tyr/ whylls a woman wepyth she laughyth

wyth therfe/ They kan wepe wyth oon yie / ad
lawgh wyth the othyr. They make contenance
wyth the vyfage that they thinke not They spe-
ke wyth the tūge that they mene not wyth ther-
te They promyse many tymes that they parfor-
me not / bnt they chaunge theyre contenaunces
as theyre myndes renne / The women have in-
numerable craftes / Salomon As many craftes
as they have / so many good condicyons and pro-
pyrties they haue / Marcolph⁹ Saye not good
condicyons or propyrties. but saye shrewdnes-
syes and decepcyons. Salomon Surely she was
an hore that bare synche a sone. Marcolph Whe-
refore saye ye so. Salomon If or thou blamyest al-
le women / and they are honest / chaste / meke / lo-
vyng and curtayse / Marcolf To that myght ye
adde & saye that they are brotyll and mutable.
Salomō If they be brotyll: that have they of ma-
nys condicyō / yf they be chaungeable that have
they by delectacioū. Womā is though made of
mānys rybbe / and yeven vnto hym for his helpe
and comfort If or womā is asinoche to saye as
a weyke erthe or a weyke thyng / Mar: in like
wyse it is asinoche to saye as a softe erroure /
Sal Therelvest thou false kaytyf Thou muste
nedys be evyll and onhappy. that sayst so moche
shame and harme of women If or of womē we
are alle comen / and therfore he that seyth evyll
of the kynde of women / is greatly to be blamyd

for what is rychesse/ wat is kingdomes/ what
is possesse/ what is goold what is sylver what
is costely clothynge or p̄ciouse stonys/ what is cos
tely metys or drinckes. what is good cōpanye or
solace/ what is myghte whitoute women. On
trouthe they may kalle wele the world deed that
from women are exiled or banysshed. For wo
men muste bere the chyldre they fede & nozysse
thaym vp/ and love thaym well She desyrith
thayre helthys She gouernyth the household.
She sorowyth the helthe of hyr husband & house
hold. women is the dilectacō of alle thynges: she
is the swetnesse of youthe She is the solace of
ioye of age. She is gladnesse of childe: She is
ioye of the daye She is solace of the nyght She
is the gladynd of laboure. of alle hevynesses. she
is the forgeter She servyth whitoute grute
hyng And she shall wathe my goyng out/ and
my incommynge. Ther vpon answered marcol
phus. he seyth trouthe. that thinkyth wyth his
herte. as he spekyth wyth his mowth. ye haue
the women in great favoure/ & therfore ye pray
se thaym. Rychesse/ nobylnesse/ fayrenesse & wy
sedom be in you. and therfore it behovyth you
to love women. but y assure you one thyng a be
it that ye now prayse thaym ovyr moche/ or ye
slepe ye shal dysprayse thaym as faste. Salomō
Therof thou shalt lye/ for alle my lyve dayes I
have loryd women & shall durynge my lyf. But

now go frō me / & se wele to. that before me thou
nevyr speke evyll of women Than marcolphus
goyng out of the kynges palayce. kallyd to hym
the womā that had hir childe to hyre yeven a yē
by the king and sayd to hyre knowyst thou not
what is done & concluded in the kinges counsell
to daye. She answeryd / my chylde is pevyn me
ayē a lyve / what ellys there is done. that knowe
not I. Tho sayd marcoph the king hath cōmaū
ded / & is vttyrly detmy ned that to morwe thou
and thy felawe shall come ayen afore hym; and
that thou shalt have the one half of thy chylde / &
thy felawe the othre half Thā sayde the womā
O what evyll king / & what false & vntrewe sen
tēce pevryth he. Marcoph sayde yet shall I shewe
the grettyr matiers & more chargeable & of gret
tyr weyghte The kīg & his counseyle hath ordey
ned that evyr man shall have vij. wyves therfor
remembre & thinke what therin is best to be do
ne. for as one man hath vij. wyves / so shall ther
nevyr more be reste or pease in thouse / one shall
be belovyd / an othre shall displease hym / for hit
that he lovyth shalbe moost wyth hym; and the
othre nevyr or seldom She shalbe wele clothyd
& the othre shalbe forgetyn: hyr that he lovyth
best shall haue ryngys jewellys goold sylver fur
res & were fylkys She shal kepe tye keyes of al
le the house She shalbe honouryd of alle the ser
vauntys and be kallyd mastres Alle his goodes

shall falle to hire: what shall thou saye the othre
vj. And yf he love twer ne: what shall the othre
v. saye / & yf he love thre what shall saye the othre
iiij. & yf he love iiij: what shall the othre iij. do &c.
That he lovyr th best he shall alwayes have by
hym & kysse hire and halse hyre The othyr shall
mowe saye that they are neythre wydowes nor
weddyd / nor yet vnweddyd. nor wythoute hus-
bande They shal mowe well forthynke that
they have theyre maynde hede losse There shall
evyr stryff angre envye and brawelyng reigne &
if there be not forwnde a remedy herefore many
great inconvenyencys shall growe there of And
by cause that thou arte a woman / and well ac-
quainted wyth the condicions of womē: haste
the and shewe thys to alle the ladyes and womē
wythin this citie / and advyse thaim / that they s-
fente not to it in any wyse. but wythstande it / and
saye ayenst the king and his counseyll / Marcolf
retourned / and went ayen to the courte & pryvely
hyd hym in a corner And the womā trowyd his
wordys to be trewe. rāne trough the citie & clap-
pyd hire handys to gydre and cryed wyth opyn
mowthe & shewyd all that she had herd / and mo-
re And eche neyghbor we or goffyp saide it forth
to an othre / So that in short tyme there was a
great assemble or gaderyng of women wel nigh
that alle the women that weren wythin the

Titie. and se gadredy/ went to the kynges palayse
well by the nombze of. vii. M. women/ and brak
vp dozys and ovyz wēt the kyng and his coun-
sell wyth great malyce and lowde crying: The
king as he this herde/ appyd what the cause was
of thayze gaderyng/ To that oon woman that
wyser and more eloquent than the othze: sayde
vnto the king. Moost myghty prynce to whom
goold/ sylver/ pzeциouse stones and alle rycheffe of
the world tho you are brought/ ye do alle ihyng
as ye woll. and non ayensayth youre pleasure:
ye have a Quene and many Quenys. and ovyz
that ye have cōcubynes or paramours wythou-
te nombze or as asmany as you pleasyth/ for ye
have all that ye wol: So may not every man do/
Salomon answeryd/ God hath anoynted/ and
made me king in israhel: may I not ihan do and
accomplyssh all my wylle Do youre wylle wyth
your owne. and medle not wyth vs. we are of
the noble blood of Abraham and holde moyses
lawe/ Wherfor woll ye ihaue that chaunge and
altre: ye are bownden to do right and iustyce.
wherfore do ye vnryght/ Tho sayde Salomō
wyth great vnpacience. Thou sham full wyf
what vnryght or wronge do y She āsweryd: as
great vnryght do ye as kñ be thought or ymagi-
ned f or ye haue ordeyned that every mā shal ha-
ue mowe lawefully vii. wyues/ & certaynly that
shall not be: f or there is not that prynce/ duke/

oz erle/ that so riche and puyssaunt is/ but that oō
womā alone shall now fullfyll. alle his desyres
and wylle. what thanne shulde he do. wyth. vii.
wyues: it is aboven any manny's myght or po-
wer: It were bettyr ordeyned that oon womā
shulde have vii. husbondes Than sayd Salomō
all laughyngly I had not trowed that of men
had ben fewer in nombze than of women Tho
kryed alle the women as mad people wyth ou-
te any reason/ ye are an evyle king & youre senten-
ces ben false and vnrighfull Now may we wel
here & se that it is trouthe that we have herd of
you: and that ye have of vs sayde evyll: and ther-
to ye skorne & mocke vs before oure vysages
that we se it O lord god who was so evyle as sau-
le that regnyd ovyr vs furste yet davyd was
worse/ and now this Salomō werst of alle than
the king beyng full of wraathe sayde There is no
hede more worse than the serpent/ and there is
no malyce to the malyce of a woman: for it we-
re bettyr to dwellle wyth serpentys and lyōs/ thā
wyth a wyckyd woman Alle evyll are but lytyl
tho the cursydnesse: of a shrewd woman Alle
wyckydnesse falle vpon women/ as the sande
fallyth in the shoes of the oolde people goyng vp
an hylle So a talkatyf woman and dishobedyet
is a great confusyon That wyf that is hlr hus-
bondes maister is evyr cōtrarve to hym An evyl
wyf makyth a pacient herte. and a sozr vysage

z it as plage of the deth A woman was the be-
gynnyng of synne/ and through hire we dye alle
The woman that is luxuriose may men knowen
in the vppermost of hire yes. and by hir browes
For hire yes are wythoute reveryence z ther
nede nomā wondre although she forgete hir hus-
bonde As the king althus had sayd. so spak na-
than the prophete and sayde My lord why rebu-
ke ye z shame ye thus alle thies women of iheru-
sale. Salomō have ye not herd what dishonoure
they have sayd of me wythoute deseruyng/ Na-
than answerd he that woll wyth hys subgiets
tye lyve in reste z pease/ he muste som tyme be
blynde dūme. z deaf. Salomō. it is to be answered
to a fole after his folyssynes. Tho sprāge Mar-
colph out of the corner that he sat in/ and sayde to
the king/ now have ye spokyn after myn intent.
for ones thys daye ye praysed womē out of alle
mesure/ and now have ye dyspraysed thaim as
inoche. that is it that I sought: alwayes ye ma-
ke my saying trewe: Salo. Thou fowle evyle bo-
dy/ knowyst thou of this comocion: Marcolph/
nay. neverthelesse ye shulde not geve credence to
alle thing that ye here Tho sayd the king salomō
go from hens out of my syghte: z I charge the
that i se the nomere betwixt the yes/ forth with
was marcolph kast out of the kinges palayse/
Than they that stode by the king sayde: my lord
speke to thiese womē sumwhat that may please

thayn to here. to thentēt that they may departe
Than turnyd the king to wardes thayn & sayd
your goodnesse shal vndrestande. that I am not
to be blamyd in that: that ye laye to my charge/
That evyl sayer marcolf/ that ye here late sawe.
hath out of hym self alle this matier surmyssed &
fayned: and every man shal have hys owne wyf
& hyr wyth faythe & honestie love and cherysshe
That I have spokyn ayenst the wyves I have
not sayde it but ayenst the froward wyves who
shulde of the good wyves speke any evyll For a
good wyf makyth hyr husbande glad and blythe
wyth hyr goodnesse She is a parte the lyyving
of hyr husbond vpon erthe. and hyr lernyng and
vauntagyth or forthryth hyr body She is a gifte
of god/ A wyse wyf and a styll is a grace abo-
uen graces/ A good shamefast and an honeste
wyf is lyke the sonne clymmyng vp to god. A
wyf of good condicions is the ornament or ap-
parayle of the house. She is a lyght shynyng
bryghter/ than the lyght of candelys: She is ly-
ke the goolden pyller standyng vpon hir feet and
an ovyr faste fundament grownded vpon a sure
stone wythoute mutacions and the commande-
mantys of god evyr in hyr mynde/ The holy
god of Israhel blesse you and multiplie your se-
de and kyndrebede/ vnto the ende of the worlde
Tho sayde they alle/ amē: And toke leve of the

king and went theyre weyes: Marcoph beryng
in his mynde of the vnkynndesse that the king
had commanded hym that he shulde no more
se hym betwixt the yes. Thought in hym self.
what was best to do. It happenyd that the next
nyght folowynge fell a great snowe. Marcolph
toke a lytyll Tyre or Temse in his oon hande &
a foot of a bere in the othre hande: and he turnyd
hys shoes that stode forwarde vpon his feet
bakward/ and vpon the mornynge he began
to go lyke a beste vpon alle foure feet through
the strete. and whan he was comen a lytyll wy-
thouthe the towne: he founde an olde oven / and
crept into it. And as the lyght of the daye was
on comen. oon of the kingys seruautys founde
the footstappys of marcolph/ and thought that it
was the trace or stappys of a merueylous beste
& in alle haste wet & shewyd it to the king. Thā
he incontynent wyth huntres and howndes he
wente to hunte and seke the sayd wondrefull
beeste and folowed it vnto they comen before
the oven where they had losse and founde no
more of the steppys. The king Salomon disce-
ded from hys hors and began to loke into the
oven. Marcolph laye all crokyd hys vysage
from hym wardes. had put downe hys breeche
into hys hamnes that be myght se hys ars ho-
le and alle hys othre fowle gere. As the kyng

Salomō that seynge demaunded what laye thes
re. Mar. answered: I am here: Sal. wherefore ly-
est thou thus/ Marcolf. for ye haue commaun-
ded me that ye shulde nomore se me betwixt
myn yes. Now and ye woll not se me betwixt
myn yes: ye may se me betwene my buttockys
in the myddes of myn arsehole: Than was the
king sore meoryd comaunded his seruantes
to take hym & hange hym vpon a tre/ Mar. So
takyn. sayde to the kyng: My lord well it please
you to geve me leue to chose the tre wherupon
that I shall hāge Sal. sayde be it as thou haste de-
syred/ for it forcyth not on what tre that thou be
hangyd/ Than the kinges seruantes toke & led-
dyn marcolph wythoute the cite/ & throughe the
vale of iosaphath & ovyr the hyghte of the hille
of olyuete from theus to iericho. & comde fynde
no tre that marcolf wolde chese to be hanged on
ffrom thens went they ovyr the flome iordane
and alle arabye throughe And so forth all the gre-
at wyldernesse vnto the rede see: And neryrmo-
re comde marcolph fynde a tre that he wolde che-
se to hange on And thus he askayd out of the
dawnger & handes of king salomō/ and turnyd
ayen vnto hys howse/ and lepyd in pease & ioye
And so mote we alle do aboven wyth the fadre
of heven Amen

¶ Empryntyd at ande werpe by
me M. Gerard leeu

